

2001-2002 Outdoor skating rinks

Parks and Recreation will operate 17 outdoor ice skating sites this winter. Facilities include a lighted general skating rink, a hockey rink and a heated park shelter for changing skates and warming up. Each site is supervised by a Parks and Recreation employee during public skating hours. Weather permitting, park shelters will open Saturday, December 22, 2001, and close Sunday, February 10, 2002. ♦

Rink Shelter Hours		
	Regular 1/3/02 - 2/10/02	Holiday* 12/22/01 - 1/2/02, 1/21/02
Parks:	Running, Westwood	
M - F	4 - 9 p.m.	1 - 9 p.m.
Sa	11 a.m - 9 p.m.	11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Su	1 - 9 p.m.	1 - 9 p.m.
Parks:	Brookside, Bryant, Brye, Haeg, Kelly, Oak Grove, Poplar Bridge, Southglen, Southwood, Sunrise	
M - F	4 - 8 p.m.	1 - 8 p.m.
Sa	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Su	1 - 5 p.m.	1 - 5 p.m.
* 12/24/01	All park shelters closed.	
* 12/25/01	All park shelters closed.	
* 12/31/01	All shelters open, 1 - 5 p.m.	
* 1/01/02	Shelters open, 1 - 5 p.m., at Poplar Bridge, Running, Sunrise and Westwood.	

Locations and Features						
PARK	ADDRESS	PHONE	RINK		SHELTER	
			General	Hockey	Floodlights	Temporary
Brookside	10000 Xerxes Ave. S.	952-831-9922	●	●	●	●
Bryant	1001 W. 85th St.	952-881-9723	●	●	●	●
Brye	10500 Xavier Ave. S.	952-881-9916	●	●	●	●
Gene C. Kelly	185 E. 102nd St.	952-881-9931	●	●	●	●
Haeg	8301 Penn Ave. S.	952-881-9804	●	●	●	●
Oak Grove	1301 W. 104th St.	952-881-9940	●	●	●	●
Poplar Bridge	4600 W. 85th St.	952-831-9935	●	●	●	●
Running	9501 12th Ave. S.	952-881-9775	●	2●	●	●
Southglen	10701 Rich Road	952-831-9652	●	●	●	●
Southwood	4800 Terracewood Dr.	952-881-9941	●	●	●	●
Sunrise	9401 Blgtn. Ferry Rd.	952-943-9917	●	●	●	●
Westwood	3490 W. 109th St.	952-881-9894	●	2●	●	●
▲ Temporary shelters are heated, with unheated "satellite" restrooms and no running water.						
Dred Scott, Logan, Ridgeview, Smith and Tarnhill have general skating rinks for day use only.						

Think spring...think picnic



Picnic shelters will soon be available to rent for next year's picnics, receptions, reunions or meetings. Registration begins January 2 for use April through mid-October. All shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. In addition, City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, walking trails and softball fields. Moir Park even has a Frisbee golf course. Reduced rates are available for non-profit Bloomington youth groups. ♦

Moir Park
104th St. at Morgan Avenue

Shelter 1:
Accommodates 200+.
\$165 + tax = \$175.73

Shelter 2:
Accommodates 50.
\$112 + tax = \$119.28

West Bush Lake Park
94th St. at W. Bush Lake Rd.

Shelter 1:
Accommodates 240.
\$165 + tax = \$175.73

Shelter 2:
Accommodates 150.
\$112 + tax = \$119.28

East Bush Lake Park
9140 East Bush Lake Road

Shelter 3:
Accommodates 200.
\$217 + tax = \$231.11

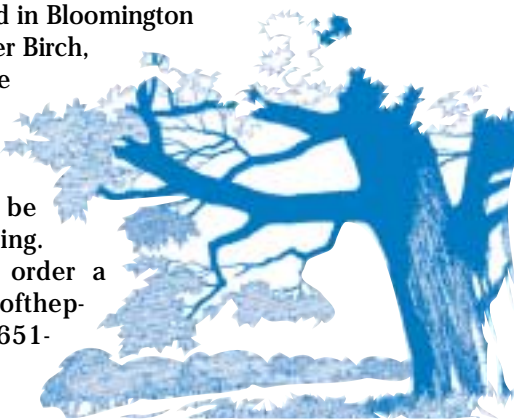
Give someone the gift of a tree

Having trouble finding the perfect gift this holiday season? Purchase a commemorative tree to be planted in that special someone's honor.

The Friends of the Parks and Trails, a non-profit organization that works with local parks departments, sponsors a commemorative tree program - you can give someone the gift of a tree and help reforest the parks in Bloomington. A card will be sent to the person being honored and in the summer they will receive a map showing the location of their tree.

Trees accepted in Bloomington parks include: River Birch, Red Oak, Prairiefire Crab, Black Hills Spruce and White Pine.

All trees will be planted in the spring. Cost is \$50. To order a tree, visit friendsoftheparks.org or call 651-698-4543. ♦



Penn Avenue and I-494 interchange improvement

Construction is underway for a new Penn Avenue bridge across I-494. Preparations to remove the existing bridge and reroute traffic began in October. In January 2002, the interchange will be closed to facilitate reconstruction of the bridge.

New design

The Penn Avenue bridge will be built to fit the design of the eventual widening of the

I-494 corridor. The new bridge will have two through lanes, two left-turn lanes and sidewalks in each direction. The design includes one traffic signal instead of two to improve traffic flow.

Ahead of schedule

The Penn Avenue bridge improvements are being made a decade earlier than planned to accommodate the extra traffic expected when the Best

Buy Corporation relocates their corporate campus to Richfield at Penn Avenue. Best Buy will fund approximately half of the bridge reconstruction. The cities of Richfield and Bloomington, Hennepin County, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration have also worked cooperatively to secure the funding for the balance of the project.

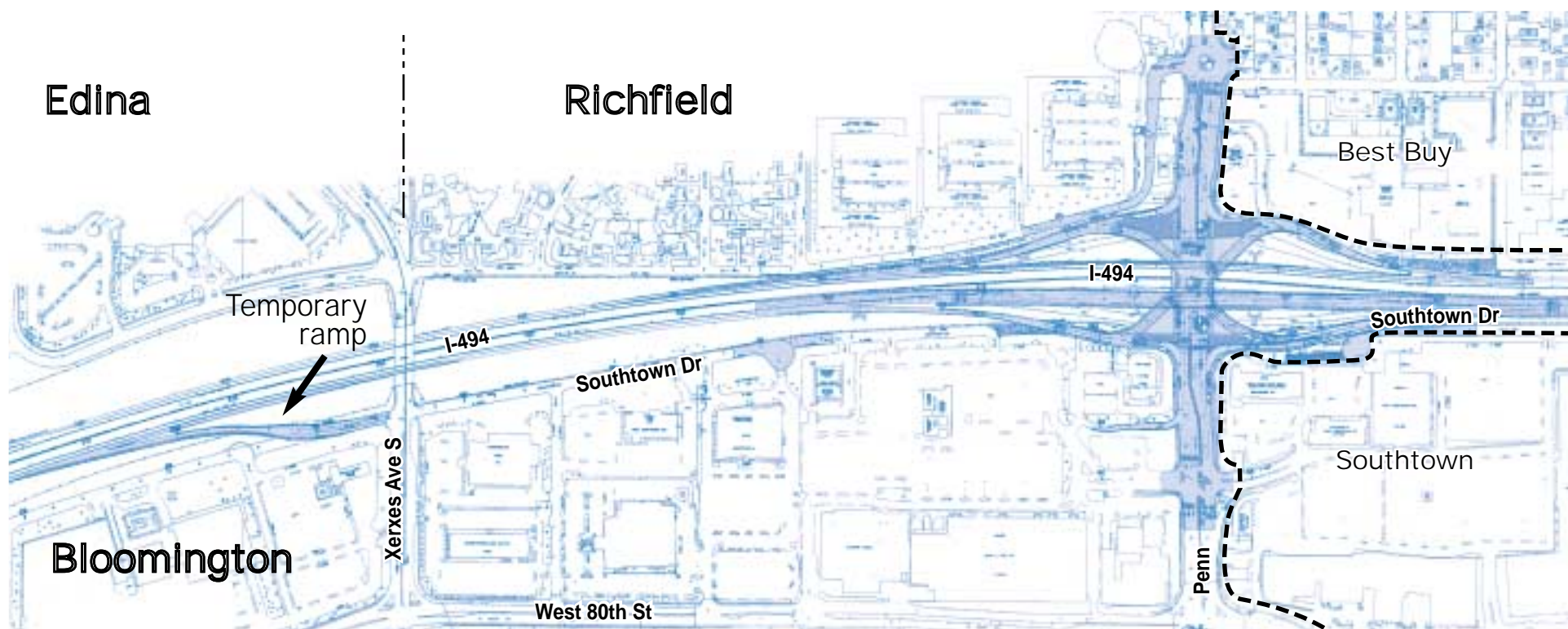
Temporary ramp

A temporary exit off eastbound I-494 to Xerxes Avenue is being built for use throughout reconstruction. A temporary signal will be constructed at Xerxes Avenue and Southtown Drive so Southtown area businesses can be accessed from the west via 80th Street. The exit and signal at Xerxes Avenue will be removed when the Penn Avenue bridge construction is complete.

struction is complete.

Alternative routes and signs will be provided on the interstates as well as city roadways during construction. The new bridge is scheduled to reopen in fall 2002 with final completion scheduled for July 2003.

For more information, call the Public Works Engineering Division at 952-563-4870. ♦



Ready for snow and ice? We are!

As the leaves change color from green to bright orange and red, Public Works' Street Section operations change from sealcoating and patching streets to snow removal. To prepare for winter, equipment is outfitted with plows and sanders, salt and sand is stockpiled, and crews check routes and equipment. When the snow begins to fly, the City's Utilities, Parks and Traffic Sections help remove snow from the 28 street and 17 cul-de-sac plowing routes in Bloomington.

Plowing

Weather conditions determine when the City plows, but when three or more inches of snow has accumulated, a Snow Emergency is automatically in effect. No parking is allowed on any street for the next 48 hours or until the street has been plowed curb to curb. A Snow Emergency may also be in effect if weather conditions warrant plowing and sanding.

The all clear

It takes 10 to 12 hours to plow the 340 miles of streets and 512 cul-de-sacs in Bloomington. During that time, 45 pieces of snow removal equipment are out on the streets. A full crew begins plowing at 3 a.m. on the main arterial streets and ends by 8 a.m. when the plowing of residential streets commences. Crews assigned to cul-de-sac routes start plowing at 4 a.m. If the snowfall subsides, plowing is finished between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

For more information, call the Snow Emergency Hot Line at 952-563-8768. ♦

A note on driveways

Although crews do not intentionally plow in driveways, snow comes off the end of the plow as it passes by. Driveways may also get a small amount of snow later in the day as crews make cleanup rounds.



Massive machine starts boring transit tunnels

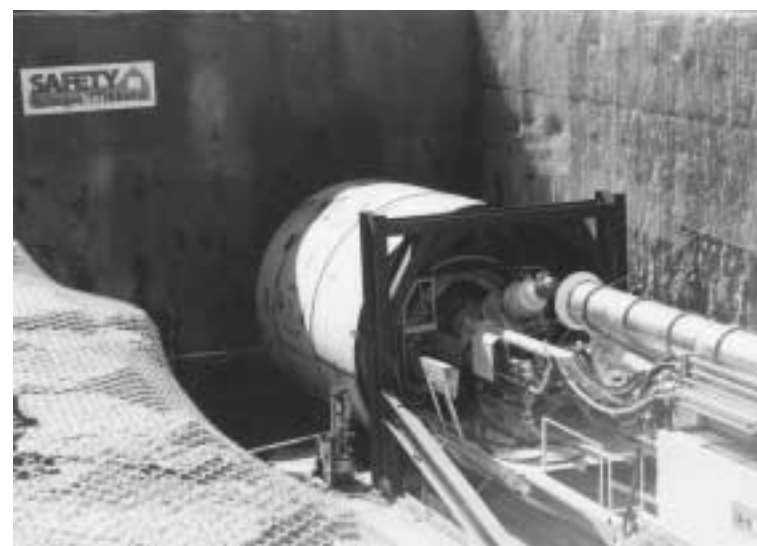
A 500-ton "mechanical worm" arrived at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport in August to carve out two tunnels for the new Hiawatha light rail transit line. The "worm," otherwise known as a tunnel-boring machine, was first used in the construction of a subway in Singapore. After being retrofitted in Germany for the airport-tunneling job, the machine sailed to Duluth from the Netherlands and was hauled by tandem trucks to its current location. The massive machine began digging the tunnels in October.

Boring work

Boring started on the north side of the airport near Fort Snelling and will end nearly 1.8 miles under the airport at the I-494 interchange at 34th Avenue. The machine will then be disassembled, hauled back to the north side and reassembled to drill the second tunnel. The tunnels will measure 70 feet in depth and 20 feet in diameter. It will take 16 months for the tunnel borer to complete its task.

Excavation

As the borer cuts into the sandstone, a pump will carry



It took four weeks to assemble the 500-ton tunnel-boring machine that arrived at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport in August. The machine began boring the first of two parallel tunnels under the airport in October and will take 16 months to finish the job.

debris toward a conveyor system at the rear of the machine. The borer can travel about 60 to 65 feet per day. Pre-cast concrete wall liners will be installed by the machine as the tunnels are excavated.

Light rail stations

Two light rail stations at the airport are planned. Lindbergh Station will be 70 feet underground, with access to the new Transit Center and Concourses C and G at the

Main Terminal. Humphrey Station will unload passengers at the Humphrey Terminal via a new parking facility being constructed along 34th Avenue South.

According to officials, light rail service to the airport is scheduled to start in late 2004. The cost for construction of the airport tunnels and stations is \$110 million. ♦

Inspection programs designed to enhance neighborhoods

Bloomington has two neighborhood inspection programs that help to maintain and improve neighborhood appearance. The programs reduce complaints about property violations by keeping residents informed on City codes.

Systematic Inspections Program

The citywide Systematic Inspections Program involves two curbside inspections of all properties in the city during the year. **Since its inception in 1998, correction orders have decreased considerably.**

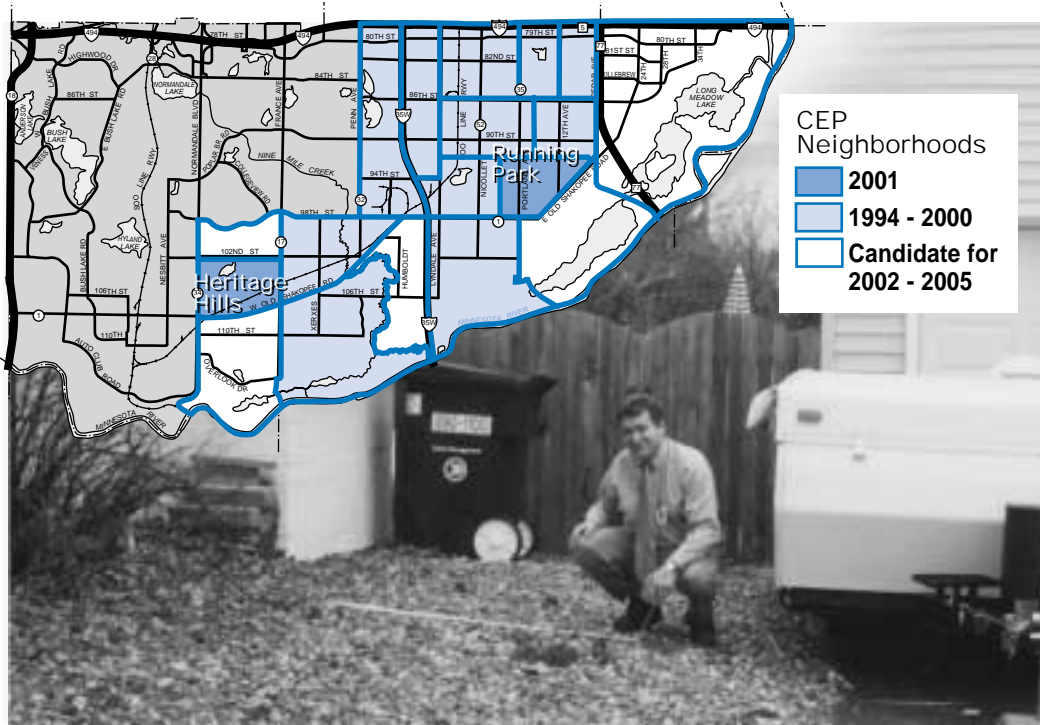


For more information on these programs, call Environmental Health Services at 952-563-8934. ♦

Community Enhancement Program

Offered in two city neighborhoods each year, the Community Enhancement Program (CEP) includes a thorough inspection of property conditions as well as home improvement loans offered by the Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

In 2001, CEP targeted the Heritage Hills and Running Park neighborhoods (*see map*). Earlier this year, 1,928 single-family homes were inspected and owners of 336 homes were advised of one or more violation(s) of City codes. By the time follow-up inspections were conducted in August, violations requiring correction orders dropped to 17 homes – about the same proportion of homes that received orders citywide.



Youth activities promote success

A non-profit initiative, Bloomington United for Youth (BUY), began in 1997 to help youth succeed in life. Highlights of current and upcoming activities include:

Awareness

In September, Bloomington Daymakers Rotary President Mark Kraft presented a check for \$1,500 to BUY from the Daymakers Club and Rotary District 5950. The funds will be used to expand awareness of developmental assets including positive values, social competencies, positive identity and community support that youth need in order to succeed.

Citizenship

Bloomington elementary and middle school students joined their parents at the polls in November. Students were asked to make recommendations that would improve our community. Responses were shared with elected officials to use in future decision-making.

Calendar

Last summer, BUY board members worked with Bloomington Public Schools to prepare an activity calendar designed to help parents nurture their children. The calendar lists activities and opportunities and features information on developmental assets and how families can work together to build their own personal assets.

Coffeehouse

Motivated by a BUY informational meeting, students from Kennedy and Jefferson



BUY board member Alli Jacox, a Kennedy High School junior, and Mayor Gene Winstead receive a check from Bloomington Daymakers Rotary President Mark Kraft.

High Schools surveyed fellow students and determined that a safe, smoke-free, chemical-free place for high school youth to gather would greatly benefit Bloomington. As a result, the Bloomington Youth Coffeehouse Initiative was established with a board comprised of youth, parents and other community members. The Initiative is currently seeking funds and choosing a site that will benefit the entire community.

Sports forum

In November, youth and adults gathered for the forum, “Improving the Youth Sports Environment.” Sponsored by Hennepin County and community health and recreation organizations, the forum enabled volunteer coaches and other participants to hear presentations and discuss the importance of positive youth development and positive

adult role modeling.

Carnival

BUY will participate in the Bloomington Loves Its Kids Carnival scheduled in February. *See page 4.* Information on developmental assets and how parents and others in the community can help youth will be the focus.

Planting the Seeds

In April, a community-wide service project designed to build teamwork and a community-service spirit between youth and adults is scheduled. Sponsored by the BUY faith community, the event will assist elderly and disabled residents with their home maintenance while helping participants build their own personal assets.

For information, call the BUY-LINE at 952-886-8802. ♦

Smith Park sports many new improvements

Phase II of construction is now complete at Smith Park, 8155 Park Avenue South. In 1999, the park went through the first phase of its renovation that included dredging the pond to improve water quality and expanding it to accommodate storm water. Paved and lighted trails were also added. Phase II has added two tennis courts, a basketball court, a large gazebo, ballfield lighting and irrigation, a picnic shelter and a pedestrian bridge crossing Smith Pond. ♦



A 70-foot long and 12-foot wide pedestrian bridge was installed in Smith Park in October. The 26,000-pound steel bridge, situated over a narrow section of the park's pond, links the north and south sides of the park.

Other park news

Look for new play equipment at Cedarcrest Park and Wyoming Playlot to be added in spring 2002. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877. ♦

Bloomington Yesterday

All-America City - 1961



Photo credit: Bloomington Historical Society

Bloomington's success in dealing with its rapid growth resulted in an All-America City award in 1961. Three years before, the state health department found that 80 percent of private wells and septic tanks in the city were contaminated. *Look Magazine* praised the citizen response: "The city wins for the swift work of its citizen groups, including 1,000 individual block leaders, who got the public water and sewer programs under way only four months after the first contamination findings." The magazine also applauded the city's parks and recreation program, the Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA) and the Bloomington Civic Theater. It concluded the city's accomplishments could not have been achieved without the dedication of "thousands of citizens on a grand scale." ♦

Recognize these athletes? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Call 952-563-8818.

Sister City delegation visits Bloomington

Bloomington welcomed the first business delegation from our sister city, Izumi City, Japan, in September. The 21-member group included representatives of the City Council, Izumi City Hospital, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Junior Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Artificial Pearl Industry Association.

Business development

The delegation came to further develop business relationships and to advertise "I Pearl", manmade pearls from Izumi City. A trade show at the Mall of America showcased the quality, color and size of "I Pearl" and the types of jewelry available. "I Pearl" items will also be featured at the Bloomington Sister City Organization's annual fundraiser this spring.



Chindonya is a popular marketing strategy in Japan used to promote a business or product. Costumed street performers, shown here at the Mall of America, make noise in order to attract customers.

Valuable relationship

Since their return to Japan, many letters of sympathy have been received from our friends in Izumi City for the devastation that occurred on September 11. These events show how important it is to continue strengthening

our understanding of cultures around the world. Bloomington is fortunate to have a strong sister city organization and a valuable relationship with Izumi City.

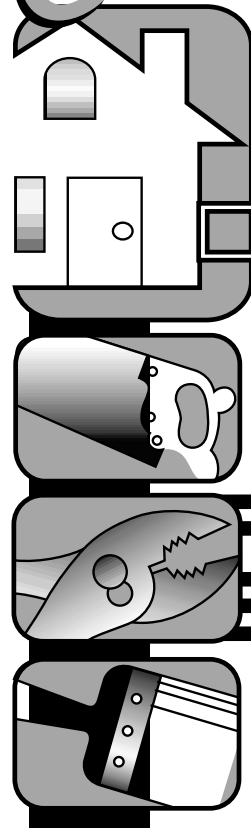
For information on the Bloomington Sister City Organization, call 952-563-8712. ♦

Support groups for older adults

The City of Bloomington Human Services Division facilitates the following support groups that meet at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South.

Depression	Meets the last Tuesday of each month, from 10 - 11 a.m. Co-sponsored by Charaka Community Support Program. For information, call 612-752-8350.
Grandparent Connection	For those who provide primary care for their grandchildren. Meets the second Thursday of each month, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Childcare provided by reservation. Co-sponsored by Lutheran Social Services. For information, call 612-879-5351.
Vision Loss	For individuals coping with vision loss and their family members. Meets the third Friday of each month, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Co-sponsored by Vision Loss Resources. For information, call 612-871-2222.
Multiple Sclerosis (MS)	For individuals afflicted with MS, their family members and caregivers. Meets the first Wednesday of each month, February - June and September - December, 7 - 8:30 a.m. Co-sponsored by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. For information, call 612-335-7900.

Come see the creative ways you can improve your home!



Bloomington Home Improvement Fair

Saturday, February 23, 2002
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Jefferson High School
4001 West 102nd Street

Free admission
Professionals from the home improvement trades
Seminars
Food
Door prizes

For details, call the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority, 952-563-8937 (TTY: 952-563-8740).

Chocolate lovers unite!

Restaurants and eateries will put their best chocolate forward for approximately 1,000 attendees at the seventh annual Taste of Chocolate Festival. Proceeds benefit the non-profit member organizations of the Bloomington Fine Arts Council.

When: Sunday, February 3.
Time: 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Where: Radisson South Hotel, 7800 Normandale Boulevard.
Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door.

For more information, call 612-978-1542. ♦



Life is Like a Valued Patchwork

The Bloomington Senior Program introduces another season of monthly continental breakfast programs:

January 23
Estate Planning
Learn the basics of estate and medical assistance planning from attorney David Butler.

February 27
Self-Stress Reduction
Certified Holistic Health Coordinator Jessica Smith will share tips on acupuncture, self-massage and

March 27
The Camp Snoopy/Mall of America Challenge
Test your knowledge and learn fun facts about the Mall of America, which celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2002. This free program sponsored by the Camp Snoopy Employment Services.

Programs are held at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$3, payable at the door. To register, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY. For transportation, call 952-563-4948. ♦